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bolism for higher spiritual creeds" (p. 273), a catalogue common enough in the eighteenth century but which nineteenth-century Liberalism fondly hoped had vanished never to return. Expressing themselves in desire for increased territory, in the increasing importance of the lords, in the growth of the High-church movement, in the love of amusement and the desertion of country for town life, in the recrudescence of military spirit, these tendencies among Englishmen are at once striking and to a sincere Liberal ominous. Little less important is the new place of England among the nations, her commercial supremacy threatened by Germany and America, and the coincident movements toward greater self-government among the colonies and that looking toward imperial federation. Written three years later, the author could have found in the crusade for protection a new confirmation for his conclusion, and perhaps in the apparent apathy over that crusade some consolation. In any event these closing pages supply matter for thought which fittingly sums up the excellent résumé which precedes.

WILBUR C. ABBOTT.

Historical Manuscripts Commission: Report on the Manuscripts of Mrs. Stopford-Sackville, of Drayton House, Northamptonshire, Volume I. (London: Eyre and Spottiswoode. 1904. Pp. viii, 439.)

Report on Manuscripts in Various Collections, Volume III. The Manuscripts of T. B. Clarke-Thornhill, Esq., Sir T. Barrett-Lennard, Bart., Pelham R. Papillon, Esq., and W. Cleverly Alexander, Esq. (1904. Pp. lxxvii, 281, ix.)

Sixteenth Report of the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts. (1904. Pp. 173.)

THE *Report on the Stopford-Sackville Manuscripts* differs from the other reports in the series in that it is a reprint of an earlier volume, with the addition of much new matter. The commission began its work in 1869, when it was deputed to ascertain what unpublished manuscripts were extant which would throw light upon the civil, ecclesiastical, literary, or scientific history of Great Britain. Its first report was published in 1870; and, including the reprint of the Stopford-Sackville manuscripts, it has now published sixteen reports, which are contained in 111 volumes. From 1870 until 1884 the reports were issued in foolscap size; and in all seventeen volumes were published in this form. Since 1884, beginning with the *Calendar of the Manuscripts of the Marquis of Salisbury*, the volumes have been issued in the more convenient octavo size, and have been printed in larger type. The earlier report on the Stopford-Sackville papers—which will form two volumes in the present octavo edition—was the last in the foolscap size; and it is a good indication of the value which has long been placed on the reports that the commission has reprinted the Stopford-Sackville report, for the commis-

sion is by no means in sight of the end of the enormous task which was committed to it in 1869.

Out of the 111 volumes which have been published, only eight are now out of print; and all the reports published since 1885 are now obtainable from the king's printers. It is evidently the intention of the commissioners to reprint the earlier reports which were issued in foolscap, and also to reprint all reports which are not now in print; so that in a few years it will be possible to obtain all the reports in a uniform edition; and dealers in second-hand books will no longer be able to mark any of the reports in their catalogues "out of print and scarce". This should be welcome news to American libraries and to American students; for all the reports are published at cost, at prices seldom exceeding half a crown a volume; and while some of them are exclusively devoted to the municipal history of England, Ireland, and Scotland, and to continental politics of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, a large number of them are full of material relating to the history of America and Canada, much of which cannot be obtained from any other source.

Another satisfactory feature about these reprints — certainly about this reprint of the Stopford-Sackville papers — is that it is much more than a reprint. All the manuscripts at Drayton Hall were reexamined by the late Mr. R. B. Knowles, one of the subcommissioners, who was at work upon them at the time of his death. The completion of the report was then put in the hands of Mr. W. O. Hewlett; in this way much was added to the report. This revision preparatory to reprinting will be commended by many students who in using the reports have often come on an abstract of a letter or document of which they would like to have a more extended summary, if not a reprint in full. The reissue of these earlier reports, and the labor and care which is being given to these reissues, show that the royal commissioners fully realize that the great work they are superintending is of wide and increasing value; and that they understand that, in some of the earlier reports on collections of manuscripts, omissions were a little too frequent, and that at times the plan of calendaring the manuscripts was carried a little too far. So far as the printing is concerned, the reports are paying their way through the press; as editions increase in number, they are probably doing more; and as for the cost of examining the manuscripts, copying them, and otherwise preparing them for the printer, that can be but a small charge on a wealthy nation like Great Britain, in view of the unique and permanent value of the work accomplished.

Families and institutions possessing manuscripts have from the first, and increasingly as time has gone on, welcomed the visits of the subcommissioners to their muniment-rooms, just as students who have learned to value the reports welcome each new volume. Long ago the subcommissioners secured the good-will and confidence of the owners of private collections of manuscripts; so much so that the duke of Rutland, the duke of Portland, the late marquis of Salisbury, the earl of Bath, and

the earl of Lonsdale, to name only a few, allowed their papers to be removed from their muniment-rooms to the Record Office in London, so as to facilitate the preparation of the commission reports. Scotch and Irish noblemen and gentlemen acted in a similar manner, and permitted the temporary removal of their treasures to the Record Office in Edinburgh or to that in Dublin.

The death of the late Queen Victoria made it necessary that King Edward VII should ratify and confirm the commission under which the work of publishing the manuscripts was being done. At the time of this ratification fourteen additional royal commissioners were named. It is to be regretted that at this time, when the work of the commission was before the cabinet and the king, opportunity was not taken to extend the scope of the work, and to empower the commission to examine and publish letters and documents throwing light on the industrial history of Great Britain. The terms of the reference confine the work to subjects connected with the civil, ecclesiastical, literary, or scientific history of Great Britain. The term "scientific" may be extended so as to embrace many phases of industry ; but the commissioners, up to the present time, have not so regarded it. There is much matter of importance for industrial history, particularly in the Irish papers. It is not wanting as regards Ireland in the present volume. But the commission reports, so far as they have gone, have not thrown much light on the beginnings of the woollen, the cotton, or the iron industry in England, or on the coming of the factory stages in these industries. England is a country of industrial firms of long standing, and of families which for generations have been in the same line of industry. All over the country there are industrial concerns which have been in the same families for a hundred or a hundred and fifty years. These families have their muniment-rooms ; and so long as trade secrets are not divulged, they would welcome visits from the subcommissioners of the Historical Manuscripts Commission.

Most students of English history are familiar with the Stopford-Sackville report of 1884 ; for the manuscripts at Drayton Hall are about the most varied and the most valuable that have been reported on by the commission. As a reprint the present volume does not call for extended notice. It may, however, be well to remind students of the Revolutionary period who have come into this field in recent years that it contains a valuable series of letters which passed between Lord George Germain and General Sir John Irwin in the years 1761 to 1784 ; and as both Lord George and General Irwin were of the House of Commons, there are many side-lights on the attitude of ministers and Parliament at the time of the American revolt. The Irish papers are numerous and important. Those which embrace the correspondence between the earl of Buckinghamshire, who was lord-lieutenant from 1777 to 1780, are unusually interesting, especially to students who are concerned with the extent to which the American Revolution affected the political, ecclesiastical, and fiscal systems of Great Britain and Ireland. The second volume of the

Stopford-Sackville report, which is now about due from the press, will be devoted to India, America, and Canada ; and most of the fresh material is promised in this American volume.

The most numerous and most valuable manuscripts in the second of these three volumes are those of Mr. Clarke-Thornhill. They are interesting in themselves, and interesting also on account of their history and the way in which they were brought to light. They were discovered at Rushton Hall, in Leicestershire, in 1828, when in the demolition of a thick partition wall the workmen broke into a large recess in which they found an enormous bundle containing manuscripts and theological books. The manuscripts begin in 1576 and go to November, 1605. In that month they come to an end ; and from the contents of the bundle and from the history of the former owners of Rushton Hall there is good ground for believing that they were deposited in the recess and walled up in the alarm which followed the Gunpowder Plot.

In Tudor and Stuart times Rushton Hall was a seat of the Tresham family. They were steadfast adherents of the old faith ; and in the reign of Elizabeth the head of the family, Sir Thomas Tresham, suffered much for his prominence among the few aristocratic families that remained loyal to the Roman Catholic church. Some members of his family had knowledge of the Gunpowder Plot, if they were not actually concerned in it. Francis Tresham, Sir Thomas Tresham's son, was arrested for his part in it ; and it is supposed that the Tresham manuscripts were walled up at Rushton Hall when there was an apprehension that search would be made there for documents which would establish his complicity in the plot. Possibly the search was made ; but the precautions which had been taken served their purpose, and when the manuscripts were found they had every appearance of having lain undisturbed in their hiding-place for two hundred years. They had been little injured by damp. In this report of the Historical Manuscripts Commission they are reproduced almost in their entirety, with an introduction of fifty-seven pages by Mrs. S. C. Lomas, who prepared the documents for the press. They rank among the most important private documents touching on the Reformation in England which have been reported upon by the Commission ; and in particular they show what it cost in actual suffering and loss for a territorial family in the reign of Elizabeth to maintain its adherence to the old faith.

Between 1581 and 1599 Sir Thomas Tresham was continually in and out of prison. For a long time he paid a monthly fine of £20 as a recusant ; and when he was out of prison he was compelled to find heavy bonds for his good behavior, and oftentimes to secure a license from the bishop before he moved from one place to another about his ordinary affairs. Neither imprisonment nor fines nor the arguments of the learned theologians who visited the recusants in jail served to shake his loyalty to his church ; and there is no proof that Sir Thomas was disloyal to either Queen Elizabeth or King James.

Under the plan adopted for publishing the manuscripts reported on by the commission many volumes are included in one report. For instance, until the sixteenth report was published this year, the last report was that of 1899, in which were included no fewer than forty volumes, beginning with the Dartmouth papers, published in 1896, and ending with the calendar of the Stuart manuscripts at Windsor Castle, only partly issued as yet. It is only in the reports that the royal commissioners note the progress of their work and the changes in the personnel of the commissioners and in the staff of examiners and compilers. In the last report, the sixteenth, these changes are recorded, and there is a complete list of all the collections of manuscripts which have been reported on since the commission was organized. The list occupies twenty-nine pages, with an average of forty-three entries to a page. From a perusal of these pages a student can learn at once the nature of the contents of the 111 volumes published between 1870 and 1904. There is also a second list in which the collections reported on are topographically arranged. For England this list is arranged according to counties; but there are no county subdivisions for Scotland and Ireland. Accompanying these two lists there is a list of the volumes of the reports as they have been issued from the press. The table of contents of each volume is given, with the price at which it is published; and mention is made of the volumes that are out of print. This last report is published at 9d.; and students who have not easy access to the 111 volumes will find it of much service, for it contains the most comprehensive account yet issued in any form of the enormous amount of work which the royal commission and its staff of trained and expert examiners and compilers have accomplished.

EDWARD PORRITT.

A School History of England, by Harmon B. Niver (New York, American Book Company, 1904, pp. 406, xvi), is intended for use in the higher grades in the elementary schools. The introduction of numerous classic anecdotes, of extracts from standard historical poems and of vivid bits from the sources, together with the simplicity of the style, seem to make the work suitable for its purpose. The repetition of discarded errors and the method of treating the more subtle and complicated problems indicate that the author is not a specialist. The bibliography is meager and bizarre, and one frequently wonders whether the best choice has been made in the case of particular references. On the other hand, the questions are stimulating, and the general tone of the book is sensible and pleasing.

The Domesday Boroughs, by Adolphus Ballard (Oxford, Clarendon Press; New York, Henry Frowde, 1904, pp. vi, 135), fills a large gap in the literature of English municipal history. Thanks to Mr. Ballard's efforts, we now have an excellent survey of all the material relating to boroughs in Domesday Book; and in an appendix he also gives a succinct statement of the main facts concerning the Anglo-Saxon boroughs. About one-quarter of his monograph is an expansion of the evidence in